

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this Amendment.

Entry of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 is respectfully requested because it places the application into condition for allowance. Alternately, entry is requested because it places the application in better form for appeal.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to improve their language.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that it is not clear whether an elastomer or thermoplastic resin is being claimed for the center outer layer. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to recite a "thermoplastic elastomer." As a result, the amended claims are clear, definite and have full antecedent basis. This rejection is accordingly overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 30, 1999 and for making the initialed PTO-1449 form of record in the application in the Office Action mailed October 11, 2000.

Drawings

The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate whether the drawing figure is acceptable in the next official action.

Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged foreign priority.

Conclusion

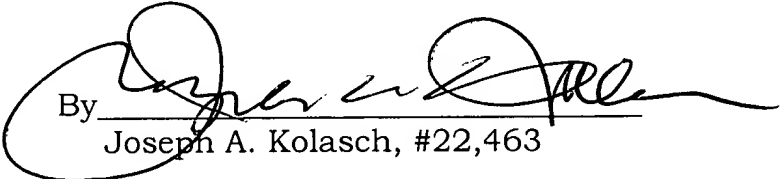
The Examiner's sole rejection has been overcome and no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to allow the application.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Joseph A. Kolasch, #22,463


JAK/REG:jls
0020-4633P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s)